

ARLINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

March 10th, 2020

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its meeting at the Town Hall Annex on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, and Sarah Carrier were present. Interim Recreation Director Robert Jefferson was also in attendance.

Members from the Public: Sarah Scully, Eric D'Souza, Adam Glick, Maryanna Foskett, Judy Weinberg, Tony Vogel, Ben Austin, Tom Davison, Leah Broder, Beth Melofchik, and Andrew Kobayashi were also present.

Open Forum (Public Comment)

Mr. Kobayashi requested an update on a previously submitted request he had discussed with the previous Recreation Director. Mr. Kobayashi had inquired about a potential location at an Arlington park for archery events requiring a 100 foot range. The Commission advised that there was not a park in Town that could accommodate his request. It was recommended that Mr. Kobayashi contact Ben Barkan of Home Harvest and Charlotte Milan from DPW for possible alternatives.

Correspondence Received

Mr. Davison from the Commission of Arts and Culture presented his request for an amendment to the Town Bylaws. This was regarding permission for visual artists/ "buskers" to perform in public parks and would allow them to sell their art and/or collect donations. Ms. Mayer stated that there are other bylaw specifications to public parks and although the proposed, if approved may allow performers to be in public parks, it would still not allow them for selling or donations. Ms. Rothenberg responded and raised concerns including scheduling issues, increased usage, crowds, and vetting of artists. Mr. Davison was advised to plan a free "Busker Event", which would need to be approved by the Commission as a permitted and scheduled event.

Mr. Austin, an Arlington High School student, has requested to host a Battle of the Bands event at Robbins Farm Park on April 11th. He stated that the annual event has become increasingly popular and well-attended. Mr. Vogel stated that the event and students had the support of FORFP and were prepared to volunteer to assist with the event. The Commission discussed the size of the event (400-500 expected attendees), potential damage to the newly established field, power supply and amplification, and potential Coronavirus restrictions. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the event with the following stipulations; follow-up discussion with Mr. Jefferson regarding exact location and power supply logistics, limiting promotion of the event to the Arlington community, confirming with the performers regarding lyrics and appropriate language, requesting extra trash barrels from the DPW, and confirming a police detail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lasker and approved 3-2 with Ms. Canniff and Ms. Mayer voting in the negative.

Ms. Melofchik presented on behalf of Ms. Martin regarding her request to host a "Meet the Candidate" event at Robbins Farm Park. Ms. Mayer explained the restrictions on solicitation of donations. Ms. Rothenberg requested that the event time be limited to 1:30-4:30pm. There will be a \$25/hour fee. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the event, seconded by Mr. Walker and approved 5-0.

Ms. Scully and Mr. DiSouza presented on behalf of residents requesting that additional town courts be lined for pickleball. The Commission will look further into the cost of painting/taping, potential court locations, and scheduling for pickleball, basketball, tennis and other court-based activities.

Discussion Topics

Mountain Biking – Mr. Glick from New England Mountain Bike Association was invited to attend tonight's meeting to share the mission of the program and how to potentially implement programming and education in Arlington.

The program promotes respectful interaction between path users, safety and respect for nature and appropriate usage of pathways. The association also assists communities with planning, design, education and materials. Mr. Lasker recommended that the Commission further discuss the potential for related recreation programming. Ms. Foskett and Ms. Weinberg shared concerns on behalf of FOMRP including kids/teens creating trails and effects on nature and wildlife within the park. They requested that alternative locations be considered for programs rather than MRP, and/or having specified hours for biking within the park. Ms. Mayer recommended posting NEMBA information on the park bulletin boards to gauge interest in education programs and to gather community feedback. Ms. Carrier recommended use of the Crusher Lot versus MRP for events and training, while Ms. Rothenberg felt that the education should be implemented at the location where issues are occurring. The Commission will continue dialog with FOMRP and discuss the opportunities presented by Mr. Glick.

Turf Fields – No updates at this time.

Spy Pond Bleachers and Field Use – A CPA funded study of the Spy Pond bleachers determined that the bleachers are in disrepair and not ADA accessible. Mr. Rademacher of DPW is leading the committee to decide how to proceed. Ms. Mayer presented site plans provided by Mr. Rademacher, which were created by the Waterfield Design Group. Mr. Lasker pointed out that although the designs included field layout options, they were for perception and visualization purposes only. Ms. Mayer will communicate to Mr. Rademacher that the Commission will provide feedback on the bleachers but will not be discussing the field design options. To date, the Historical Commission has yet to provide guidance as to whether the stone bleachers that are considered “historical”. Mr. Rademacher has stated that he believes that the stone arch way is historical, but the seating is not.

Current Projects

Lussiano/North Union – RDLA presented equipment and construction pricing at the most recent working group meeting. The estimate is below the \$500K budget. Several items have been designated as ADD/ALTS for the Commission to prioritize. The Tree Warden has stated that a reduction in tree plantings would require a hearing. The DPW will be instrumental in maintaining the water system for the plantings/trees. The Commission will further discuss work that could be done by the town directly to reduce costs. Mr. Jefferson stated that the meter and backflow protector cost was estimated at \$17K. Mr. Dunetz is currently working on the final design updates based on the working group discussion. The Commission discussed the accuracy of pricing, confirmed by NELM. Mr. Jefferson will inquire about pricing with Phelan (Reservoir contractor) as a comparison. Additional discussion included recommendations to salvage benches from the rink, using natural logs if deemed safe by inspection regulations and the use of boulders and signage designed by Arlington Arts. Mr. Jefferson will add an agenda item to the next meeting for the Commission to vote on – final pricing, final design and add/alt prioritization.

Playground Evaluation Study – Mr. Jefferson met with Dan Warren to discuss the “top 10 tier 1 parks”. They compiled a list of repairs to address the safety concerns raised by the evaluation. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Commission before any work is done. At this time, park closures are not scheduled.

Reservoir Phase 1 and 2 – Phase 1: Onsite work will continue after materials are delivered. Filter delivery is “imminent”. Phase 2: Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Feeney will be meeting to discuss funding. Project bids are due March 12, 2020. Firms have expressed concern about bidding for the project due to scheduling and pricing discrepancies related to the estimated design fee. Mr. Lasker will reach out to other firms.

Rink/ADA Upgrades – The contract will be awarded to Kneeland Corp tomorrow. There was an on-site meeting today to discuss the scope of the project. All funding will be provided by ADA and the Recreation revolving fund.

Wellington Phase 3 – Mr. Jefferson met with Ms. Sullivan regarding Phase 3. Ms. Sullivan has requested that a Commission member volunteer as a representative for the project. Ms. Rothenberg volunteered to be the Commission representative for Wellington, Mr. Lasker for Spy Pond and Mr. Walker as an alternative for both projects.

Spy Pond – No updates until spring. The \$17-18K allocated for construction was used for design by Hatch-Chester.

Approval of Minutes

This item was tabled until next meeting.

Next Meetings

March 24th, 2020 and April 7th, 2020

Other Important Dates

Reservoir Bids due 3/12/2020 and TAC meeting on 3/11/2020

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

Field scheduling for the spring is underway. Slot-scheduling was not implemented and, as a result, ASC has the most time allotted leaving LAX with minimal time. Robbins Farm Field will be used for baseball only, per the previous recommendation by Jeff Rikeman from DPW based on delicate root development. Pierce Field will be closed.

Ms. Canniff attended the Arlington Baseball Board meeting. Items for further discussion included – use of Thompson baseball diamond for t-ball and younger level baseball to allow more time slots for older age groups at the bigger ball fields. It was also suggested to close the Reservoir Field baseball diamond and line the field for lacrosse use.

All events are TBA due to the growing concerns of Coronavirus.

Ms. Campbell has resigned from her position as Assistant Director of Recreation and has given her two weeks' notice. Interviews have been completed for the Rink Supervisor position and the new Program Supervisor will begin March 23, 2020.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn at 10:15pm. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and was approved 5-0.

APPROVED 4/14/20 P.R.C. MEETING



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3/10/2020
TOWN Annex

Sarah Scully

ERIC DISOUZA

ADAM GLICK

MARYANNA FOSLETT

JUDY WEINBERG

Beth Melofchik

Andrew Kobayashi

TOM DAVISON ACAC